

trade with the ninth largest economy in the world. In 2011, last year, North Dakota had over \$46 million worth of exports to Russia. This impacted 160 jobs in our State directly. That number will grow significantly if we grant PNTR to Russia. On the other hand, failing to grant them PNTR will significantly impact North Dakota businesses as well as all American businesses. It will put us at a competitive disadvantage.

This is why it is important for Congress to grant permanent normal trade relations with Russia and to do it as quickly as possible.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I also thank the folks who came to the Chamber this morning, Madam Speaker, in a bipartisan fashion to recognize the need to grant PNTR status to Russia in order for us—American manufacturers, American job creators—to take advantage of that trade opportunity that is represented by the Russian accession to the WTO.

If we go forward and grant PNTR status to Russia, United States exports could double or, perhaps, even triple as a result of the trade opportunity that Russia represents to our American job creators; and in the great State of New York, that means tremendous numbers of jobs will be created.

As we all know, the number one issue facing us in this Chamber, in this city, is: How are we going to grow jobs across America? As I said in the beginning and as I will say again, American trade opportunity, such as represented by Russia, equals American job opportunity.

STOP SPENDING ON WEAPONS AND WARFARE; START INVESTING IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the House is debating the Defense appropriations bill, which provides an excellent opportunity to point out something quite ironic about my colleagues in the majority because, Madam Speaker, for all of their talk about getting spending under control, that same rhetoric is surprisingly absent when we are talking about the Pentagon budget, which we are talking about this week.

You see, they're eager to slash and burn when it comes to programs that invest and support middle class working families, but somehow, when it is time for sacrifice to be shared, the military industrial complex is nowhere to be found. While we have to fight for every penny of domestic spending, the Pentagon simply fills in its amount on a blank check, it appears. So I think we ought to have a dollar-for-dollar match in spending cuts.

I will be offering a series of amendments to the DOD appropriations bill

that call for defense cuts in the exact amounts by which other important programs are being reduced.

For example, the proposed Labor-HHS-Education spending bill eliminates the title X program. Title X, the family planning program that historically has been passed with bipartisan support, has provided contraceptive and preventive health services to low-income women for more than 40 years. The Republicans want the title X \$294 million investment gone. So let's cut the defense budget by an identical \$294 million;

The Ag appropriations bill provides \$119 million less than the President requested for WIC—the Women, Infants, and Children's program—which provides badly needed nutrition assistance for poor pregnant women, new mothers, and children up to the age of 5. So, if we are going to shortchange a pillar of our safety net by \$119 million, then I believe the Department of Defense can do without that same \$119 million.

□ 1040

Here's the big ticket item: the Republican budget. The budget that passed this body in March zeroed out all funding for the Social Services Block Grant, including \$1.7 billion in cuts for next year. If my Republican friends believe that we can't afford \$1.7 billion next year to provide daycare, housing, home health care, home meal delivery, and other social services, then I say we can also eliminate a corresponding \$1.7 billion in defense spending.

The fact is, Madam Speaker, defense cuts are not only fiscally responsible and morally defensible; they're widely popular. USA Today reported yesterday on a new survey that shows that two-thirds of those living in Republican congressional districts believe that the defense budget is too large.

It is no secret that military spending is widely out of control. Let's remember that none of this takes into account the war in Afghanistan, which isn't funded through the appropriations process. On top of the bloated defense budget, American taxpayers are shell-ing out another \$10 billion a month—not a year—for a decade-long war that is failing to advance our national security objective.

It's time to reverse this course. It's time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. It's time for the Pentagon to assume its share of the shared sacrifice. It's time to do the right and the sensible thing: stop spending on weapons and warfare and start investing in the American people.

EXTENDING TAX RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, coming from a small business background, I originally ran for public office not because of what government was doing

for me, but rather what it was doing to me.

Many small business owners in my northern California district feel the same way, but apparently the President isn't getting that message. The other day he said:

If you've got a business, you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen.

Madam Speaker, perhaps that is why he's so determined to raise taxes on small businesses on January 1. Now Senate Democrats are saying that if they can't get their small business tax hike, they'll let taxes go up for everyone. That's just wrong. Let's stop the tax hike for all Americans.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Stan Ballard, Nettleton Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, thank You for this unique privilege You have given me today to pray and to ask Your blessings on the Congress of the United States. I pray for Your wisdom and guidance to be given to each Member of Congress. I pray for Your protection for them and their families.

Please reveal to each of them that they have a great responsibility to vote and conduct themselves according to Your divine will and purpose. Show them that they are accountable not only to the voters, but to You, Almighty God.

Thank You for the United States and the freedom and opportunities we enjoy as Americans. Thank You for allowing us to be blessed by Your omnipotent hand for over 236 years. Your purpose is for us to share Your blessings of love and grace to all people. We pray for a strong economy and for national unity. We are blessed because You are our God.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.